

The Pony Express

November 14, 2008

Rita Ashley, Principal

Damian Patton, Asst. Principal

Elizabeth Smith
ELEMENTARY



Principal's News

Today's schools are challenged to sustain high student achievement rates. Research shows that the support and involvement of students' families and the community is fundamental to achievement in schools. At ESE, we are privileged to have involved parents that support our efforts. On Wednesday, November 12, 2008, the support of our parents and Specials teachers provided collaborative planning time for all grade levels. During this time our Special Education teachers and Reading Specialist were able to collaborate with each grade level team to plan instruction and align our practices. This is one example of the benefits of having supportive parents. Wednesday, November 12, 2008, became even more exciting when our campus received 3 grants from MISD Education Foundation totaling \$3448.98. The Education Foundation supports creative teaching ideas that make learning fun for our students.

We are pleased to announce a couple of new capabilities for our parents using the Infinite Campus

Parent Portal regarding student failing and missing grades. Starting at the beginning of the 3rd Six Weeks (Monday, November 17) parents will receive e-mail notifications anytime a teacher places a failing grade (69 or below) in the electronic gradebook. (This applies to students in grades 2-4) Coming soon will be the capability for parents to receive similar e-mail notifications for missing work. These notices will go directly to you instead of you having to log in and check for failing or missing grades. These additions to the Infinite Campus Parent Portal are a part of our ongoing effort to provide parents with timely information regarding student performance. We are committed to engaging parents in the academic process and hope you find these features helpful.

Parents, we welcome your involvement and support. Thanks for all that you do!

Contents

Principal's News	1
Asst. Principal's News	1
Kindergarten News	2
First Grade News	2
Second Grade News	2
Third Grade News	2
Fourth Grade News	3
Librarian's Lore	3
From the Nurse	3
From the PTA President	3
"Sporty" Stallion Stats	4
Stallion Sketchbook	4
Hoof Beats	4
Technology Newsletter	4

Donuts with Dads
November 20th
7:00 - 7:45 am

Award Assemblies

November 20th
8:15 am 1st grade
9:00 am 2nd grade

November 21st
8:15 am 3rd grade
9:00 am 4th grade

Asst. Principal's News

One of the most important components of an effective school is the partnership formed between educators and parents working together for the best interest of children. Through teamwork, open communication, and a dedication to continuous improvement, we strive to make our school a place that fosters a love of learning. At Smith we are so proud of our highly supportive parents, and with that being said, I am so excited about starting a Dads' Club at Smith. We are looking forward to doing some wonderful things on campus to

support our students, teachers, and community. Our goal will be to develop the skills, attitudes, knowledge and character that children need to reach their individual potential to create that foundation for life long learning.

In order to give each child the best opportunity for success, we keep the children in the forefront of all that we do. At Smith, we pledge to keep children first, which allows the students to know that their education and success is our number one priority.

Kindergarten News

Kindergarten is a fun place to be this time of year! We are learning so much each day and having a great time doing it. Here are some of the wonderful things we are learning! In language arts, we are continuing to meet in our guided reading groups. We are working on fluency and story comprehension. We are also continuing to practice our letters and sounds, rhyming words, syllables, and detecting initial and final sounds in words. These skills help us enormously in both our reading and writing! In math, we will be learning about ordinal numbers and positions, separating whole objects into equal parts,

and determining quantities greater and less than its partner. In unit development, we will be working on a special project that will come home at the end of December. We hope it will be something that you treasure for years to come. In January, we will begin learning about winter animals, snow, and ice—let's hope our Texas weather cooperates!

Please mark you calendars to join us for our Kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast. Our feast will be on Tuesday, November 25, at 1:30 pm in the cafeteria. More information will come home regarding the feast at a later time. We hope to see you there!

First Grade News

This is a busy time for first graders! Our hallway has been covered with pumpkins, spiders, and bats. You would be amazed at how many facts our first graders know about each of these subjects! Now we will begin learning about the Pilgrims, and how the Native Americans helped the Pilgrims when they reached the New World. The students will begin a major project:

making Native American homes and presenting the homes in front of the Class. December will be just as exciting, as we learn how different cultures celebrate Christmas in our unit entitled "Christmas around the World." Last, but not least, we will have fun on the "Polar Express" as we get ready to break for the holidays. Keep reading, first graders!

Second Grade News

In this next six weeks, the second graders will be investigating the original inhabitants of our continent, the Native American tribes. We will study how our nation's land and natural resources led to a variety of ways of life for our Native Americans in the many climates and environments of the United States. We will learn why Europeans first came to America, and how our ancestors brought customs and culture to create the America we know today. Preparations are also being made for a second grade field trip to learn more about

pioneer life in our area. Complete information will be sent home as soon as specific plans are made.

The next stop? The Pony express! The second graders will be learning about the history of communication. During this unit, the students will read an historical piece on the Pony Express. Using technology, they will create a communication time-line starting with the telegraph and ending with email. The students will then be asked to create their own life time-line. Look for those to soon decorate our hallways.

Third Grade News

In third grade, we will begin studying the biographies of famous Americans and their influence on communities. We will continue working hard in Language Arts with literacy circles, summarizing, and determining cause/effect and fact/opinion. Ask your child to explain the PARTS strategy for reading! Students have had a chance to log on to Study Island and enVisions on-line in our computer lab. These are great tools to use for practice at home, or if your child needs a little help in a particular area. In

math, enVisions topics 10-13, we will begin division and its relationship to multiplication. We will also work on fractions and patterns. Log on to www.pearsonsuccess.net and check out what we will be doing. In science, students will continue to study the Solar System and its amazing facts. Third Grade is a great place to be at Elizabeth Smith Elementary.

Fourth Grade News

The fourth grade stallions are really running hard and fast now. We have spent many days learning how to multiply two digits by two digits (please help your child learn/remember their multiplication facts 0-12), and now we are learning to divide. Remember, long division?!

We have been to early Texas by studying the Aztecs, Incan, and Mayan Indians and learned that the Bearing Strait was really a bridge called Beringia! In Science, we

are studying buoyancy, density, force, motion, and matter. We have learned the inside of a pumpkin is icky and sticky, and pumpkins float!!!! We would also like to thank everyone who participated in our school election. It was a great learning experience for us and the school. Keep up the every night reading and Study Island. It will keep our minds sharp! Parents, thanks for all you do!!!

Librarian's Lore

Reading Counts is under way and lots of students have already earned charms. There is an updated list of all reading counts quizzes on the school website, and I am in the process of ordering about 200 more. Most of our fiction and easy fiction books will have quizzes once these come in.

PTA was super generous to me and gave me over \$800 worth of new books from their book fair. Most of these have been entered into the new cataloging system and have been made available for check out. Thanks PTA.

I also receive 7 new books each month from Junior Library Guild which are usually picked as award winning books each year. I have been encouraging the kids to read them. The 3rd and 4th graders will be hearing me read Bluebonnet

nominee books, and if they have read or have heard me read at least five of them, they will get to vote online for their favorite. Last year the books with the most points from Smith went on to win the Bluebonnet awards.

Below is a link for the new cataloging system in the library. If you are wondering if our school has a particular book you can now look it up anywhere you have access to the internet. If you have kids in other schools you can also access their schools as well.

http://216.213.255.221/uhtbin/cgiirsi/x/x/0/57/1/774/X/BLASTOFF/?user_id=ESMITHEWEB

Anne James
E. Smith Librarian

From the Nurse

What are some of the ways to keep your student healthy at school.

1. *Get a good night's rest.* Children in elementary school require a minimum of 9 hours of sleep, with the range being 9 to 11 hours.
2. *Eat a nutritious breakfast.* Allow enough time in the mornings before school to sit down to a healthy breakfast. Cereal, oatmeal, farina, even toast with peanut butter and milk will each help the student's day start off right.
3. *Stay home if you are sick.* A fever of 100.0 or above will be sent home from school. Any medications needed at school require a parent's written permission.
4. *Wash you hands frequently.* This is still the best way to prevent the spread of germs.
5. *Participate in some form of daily physical activity.* Playing outside, biking, playing soccer, ballet, gymnastics, and walking are all examples of physical activities.
6. *Give Positive Praise and Encouragement.* Start off the day with words of praise.

From the PTA President

Happy Holidays to All!

It is hard to believe that another six weeks has come and gone. We were very busy with the PTA this past six weeks. Now things should slow down in the next six weeks. We had a very successful Fall Festival. Thanks to all of our volunteers and especially Tiffany Scherer who chaired the event. Hopefully, everyone saw the detailed update I sent earlier. Please contact me if you have more questions.

Our volunteer of this month is Robert Salerno. He is an awesome volunteer!!!

Spiritwear has all been delivered. We do have some small sizes left in camouflage. Thanks to Michele Triplett-Wilkerson for chairing this event.

We did have a successful fundraiser at the Arlington Skatium. Thanks to Kim Pratt for setting that up. Our Enrichment Team will benefit from that!!!

Donuts with Dads is Thursday, Nov. 20th at 7am in the Gym. This is a free event. Hope to see everyone there. Please have a wonderful Holiday Season!!!!

Lori Marquardt, PTA President
lorimarq@sbcglobal.net

"Sporty" Stallion Stats

This next six weeks in Kindergarten and 1st grade, we will continue to work on a variety of motor skills, as well as some cooperative games and parachute games. In 2nd through 4th grades, we will be working on our basketball skills, as well as playing cooperative games and parachute games.

We will be holding Stallion Stackers Demo Team Tryouts for 1st- 4th grade in December. There will be more detailed information sent home soon.

For information on a personalized eating plan and a physical activity plan, check out the website www.MyPyramid.gov.

Coach Cain
Coach Kelley and Coach Yo
Physical Education

Technology Newsletter

We are moving along in technology this new six-weeks! We are currently learning and practicing keyboarding skills grades K-4. Here is a fun word search puzzle to test your keyboarding knowledge! :)

Q	F	H	O	M	E	R	O	W	N
R	R	V	S	U	D	L	H	P	U
P	A	B	H	I	C	O	J	M	M
P	B	S	I	G	E	W	L	T	B
O	E	L	F	J	N	E	A	Y	E
S	C	P	T	C	T	R	O	C	R
T	A	I	K	M	E	R	W	Q	R
U	P	P	E	R	R	O	W	Z	O
R	S	H	Y	R	U	W	F	X	W
E	V	N	H	Y	C	J	T	X	O
T	Z	K	C	O	L	S	P	A	C
V	Q	M	S	B	N	O	D	J	B
N	U	M	B	E	R	P	A	D	M

HOME ROW
UPPER ROW
NUMBER ROW
TAB

SHIFT KEY
ENTER
LOWER ROW
NUMBER PAD

WPM
CAPS LOCK
SPACE BAR
POSTURE

Mrs. Cowan
Technology
cowash@mansfieldisd.org

Stallion Sketchbook

We had a terrific time during the 2nd six weeks in Art. Your children are amazing little artists! As we move into the 3rd six weeks, we will study form, balance, pattern, and emphasis. I would also like to take this opportunity to tell you about a once in a lifetime exhibit taking place in our own backyard. The Tutankhamun exhibit is taking place right now at the Dallas Museum of Art through May 17th. This will only be a three city tour with Dallas being the first city. In fact, the other two cities are yet to be announced! After this short tour, the collection will be permanently displayed in a museum they are currently building in Cairo. I highly recommend this exhibit. This will be an experience that your children will never forget!

Mrs. Thompson
Art Teacher

Hoof Beats

Hello Stallions! This past six weeks our students have been working hard in music class! We have been focusing on instruments and their families, learning patriotism through music, and learning various holiday-related songs. Our 4th graders had the opportunity to attend a concert by the Arlington Symphony. The students really enjoyed the concert and were able to apply some of that experience to what we have been learning. In the coming weeks, we will be learning about different composers, learning to compose music, continuing to review instruments, and learning a variety of winter holiday songs. The E. Smith Stallion Singers will be performing at the Hometown Holidays celebration on December 6th at the Mansfield Activities Center (MAC) at 9:30 am. Please come out to support our choir and our school! I look forward to another exciting six weeks and a great holiday season.

Ms. Ward
Music Teacher